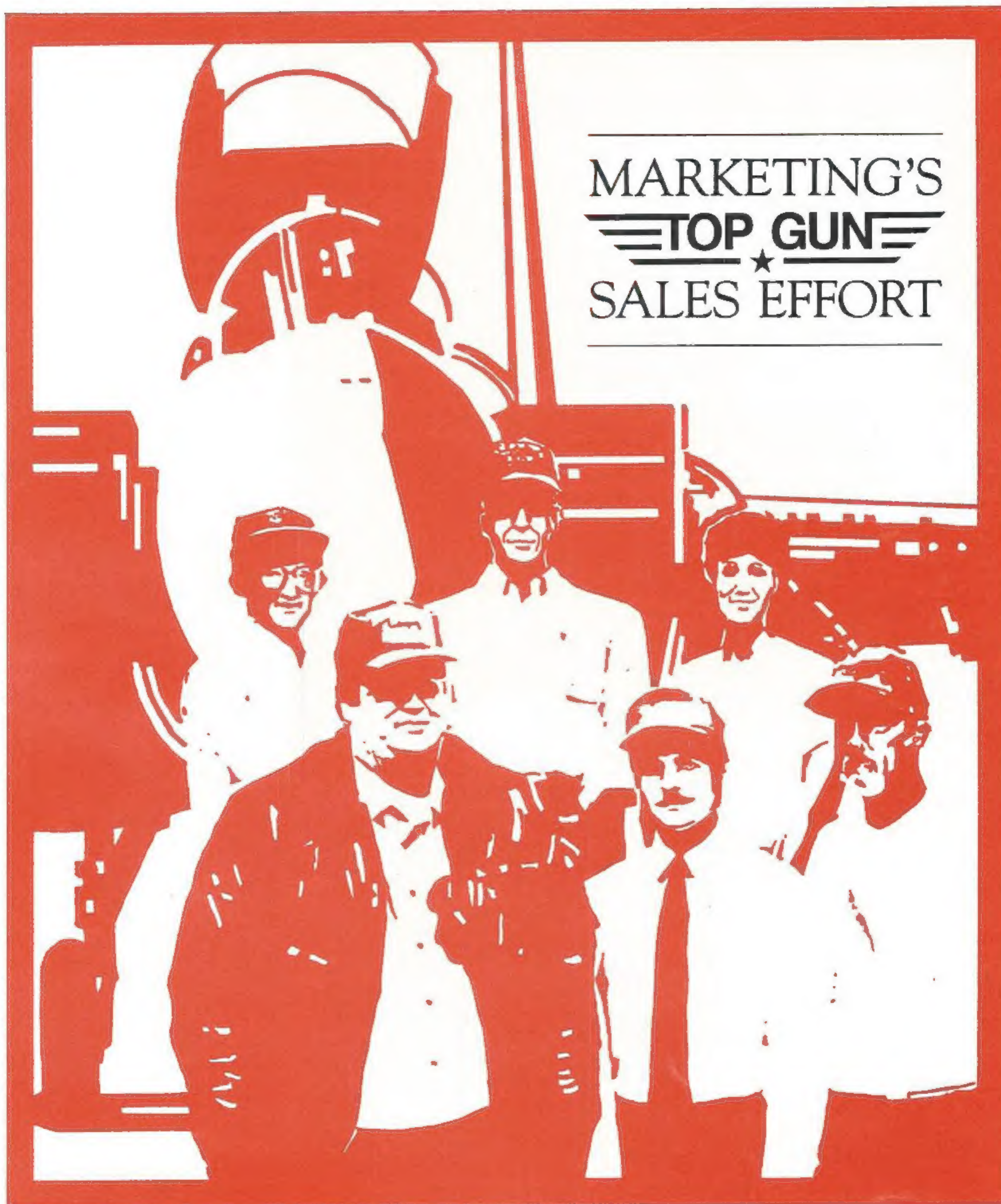


# PLAIN TALKS

JULY-AUGUST 1988

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Volume 67

Number 6

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Gerald Nelson



Retiree Sonny Hebert and his wife, Ruth, take care of the Sabine Port Arthur Recreation Club at Sabine Station. Read more about the club and its activities on page 14.

On the cover, Marketing's residential and commercial group aims to soar above the competition with its aggressive *Top Gun* campaign. Read about Marketing's plan on page 10.

## PLAIN TALKS

July-August 1988

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# Fish story hatches at Sabine Station

by E. Kelly Merritt

It is winter at Sabine Station. Thousands of tiny redfish "fry," recently hatched, dart around pools warmed by the "waste heat" water from the plant. As the weather warms and the fry grow to "fingerling" size, three to six inches, they are transferred to "grow-out" ponds owned by local fish farmers.

Through the spring and summer, the fingerlings grow rapidly, feeding on locally produced fish meal. By November, they have grown much larger than they would have in the wild.

The farmers sell their crop to fish processing plants and restaurants across the country, profiting from the nation's hunger for the newly-acclaimed delicacy.

If Don Hamilton has his way, this imaginative scenario will become a reality in a few years.

In a pilot project this spring, Gulf States and Texas A&M University proved the "biological feasibility" of growing redfish during the winter months using Sabine Station's waste heat water. Now, Hamilton's group is trying to prove the project's economic feasibility.

If successful, says the manager of Industrial Services and Cogeneration, the area could see a multi-million dollar redfish farming industry that would bring jobs, profits and greater electrical demand.

In the pilot project, researchers stocked one-week-old red-drum



*Five hundred redfish "fingerlings" like this one held by Dr. Tom Linton grew for several weeks in a climate-controlled pool at Sabine Station. They will mature in area farm ponds before harvesting this fall.*

"fry" into two aboveground pools behind Sabine's Unit 4. The pools were heated by water circulating from Sabine's flash tank. A Texas A&M research technician and Sabine personnel, including chemist Joe Hantz, carefully controlled water temperature, salinity and hardness as the fry grew to fingerling size. In late spring, the fingerlings were transferred to grow-out ponds in Winnie.

The project wasn't easy. Water conditions had to be perfect to keep the fish alive. Researchers didn't find the exact chemistry until the third load of fish was stocked.

Except for the pools provided by Texas A&M, all materials used were already on site. "We're not taking anything away from the plant," says mechanical maintenance supervisor Don Zierold.

Why grow redfish at a power plant?

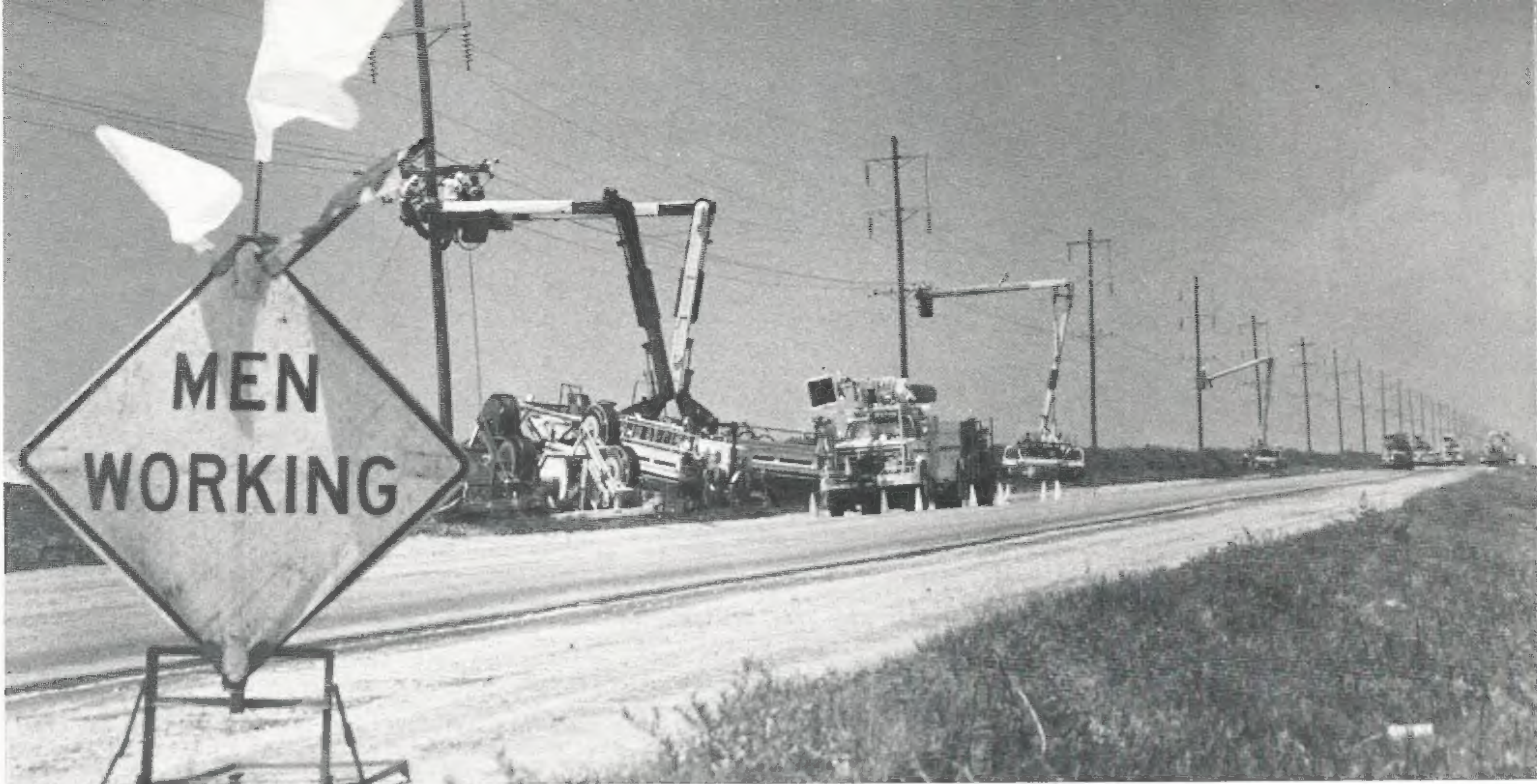
"Red drum are very valuable fish, even more valuable as states prohibit taking them commercially," says Dr. Tom Linton of the Texas A&M Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Linton was the scientific director for the project. "We can spawn

these fish in captivity and produce eggs by the thousands. But they are very sensitive to low temperatures and normally don't spawn or grow during the winter months. With this head-start project, we provide an environment suitable for growth so that they can grow all year long. We're making use of what has been considered waste (the plant's hot water) and trying to use that waste for a valuable purpose."

"We are proud of the way the project has progressed," says Hamilton. "Mike Kolbus (plant superintendent), Jewel Merchant (general maintenance supervisor), Paul Suddath (performance supervisor) and the entire staff at Sabine have demonstrated how successful GSU can be when it's people get behind an idea, even a novel one such as redfish farming."

The project began out of Hamilton's attempts to find diversification opportunities using existing GSU assets. The group is trying to negotiate agreements between fish farmers, feed processors and distributors. "If everything goes well, we plan to introduce more fish in early fall," he adds.





# Bucket brigade blitzes beach

story and photos by E. Kelly Merritt

"If we were someplace besides the beach, it would be *real* hot," said Mitchell Briscoe, truck driver, Beaumont, as he stood along Highway 87 near High Island, Texas. The weather forecast called for an 114 degree heat index, the combined effect of heat and humidity.

But the 12 crews replacing a three-phase conductor on a 2.2 mile stretch of highway leading to the Bolivar Peninsula seemed almost oblivious to the heat, especially those who were feeling the Gulf breeze from a bucket above the sand dunes.

In three days, the 35 T&D workers accomplished a job which would normally take three regular size crews a month to do. A conductor failure the previous Friday had damaged the line providing power to homes along the beach.

The Fourth of July holiday was

coming up and Line Department supervisors were afraid the damaged lines wouldn't be able to handle the excess load. So, with only one week before the tourist influx, they organized a massive operation similar to those performed after major storms. The job was expected to take a week, but workers completed the job in three-and-a-half days. "This was well organized for something that came up only Friday," said lineman-1st class Richard Cortez of Beaumont.

Crews from Beaumont, Dayton and Winnie arrived at the location each day before sunrise. "The beach is a change of scenery," Cortez added. "Getting up at 4:30 in the morning is a change, too."

Said Winnie district supervisor Frank "Wendy" Nance, "This is a joint effort. The guys knew the situation. The pressure's been on, but they came through again."



*Wearing nearly 50 pounds of hardware, lineman - 1st class Shelton Stevens of Beaumont wraps aluminum tie-wire around a new conductor.*



# Living for today may mean — working for tomorrow

by E. Kelly Merritt

You may know a couple like them. She works in your office or they live down the street. He drives a loaded 4x4 truck. She drives a sports car. They own a boat with the best fishing equipment. They drive to Houston or New Orleans and shop at the finer stores.

If you were able to look closely at their finances, you might find that they are charged to the limit. Their monthly payments will take up a considerable amount of their income for years. Because of these bills, they "can't afford to save." They need their money now. At this time in their lives, saving for retirement is the last thing on their minds. "Why save for retirement now," they ask. "We're in our mid-thirties. We're not going to retire for 30 years or so."

The "buy now, pay later" philosophy is not unusual of the 30- to 40-year-old baby boom generation. While their parents learned saving habits early, some baby boomers never got the message. "Our

## Financially, how are you preparing for retirement?

*I participate in the company Thrift Plan to the maximum amount I can contribute. I also diversify my investments outside the company by IRAs, mutual funds in the area of precious metals and real estate.*



**George Kelley**  
Supervisor-Nuclear Procurement  
River Bend

E. Kelly Merritt



*Financial consultant Lorraine Decker says individuals should think of "retirement" and "financial independence" as synonymous. "The first step is to realize your future will be there whether or not you are prepared for it."*

generation wants to live for today," says baby boomer Mike Sealy, manager of Employee Benefits.

"We're consumers, many of us are living from payday to payday." But, experts say, living for today may mean working for many years past the date you expected to retire.

Contrary to popular belief, age 55 is not the time to begin preparing for retirement, warns Lorraine Decker of Decker & Associates, a Houston-based financial consulting firm. Decker's firm participates in the company's pre-retirement orientation programs. "Many individuals in their 60s are able to retire with financial security today basically because of the saving habits they formed following the Depression," she says.

But the next generation to retire, the 30- to 40-year-olds, never learned those habits. "The cold hard economic facts are, if they wait until they are 50 or 60, it will be too late." Even the best pension plans, she says, pay no more than 60 percent of an individual's working income. And for those who are

spending 95 percent of their income, drastic lifestyle changes will result.

"So how do I prepare for retirement and when do I start," you ask.

"I think the first step is to recognize that your future is going to be there whether or not you are prepared for it," Decker says. "You need to make a decision: 'Do I ever want to be able to retire? Do I ever want to be financially independent?' Those two terms, 'retirement' and 'financial independence,' should be synonyms for a 30- or 40-year-old." Decker describes financial independence as a point in life when earned income is no longer required to maintain one's standard of living.

"It doesn't mean that in the future this 30- to 40-year-old will give up work, it simply means that he no longer has to work to maintain his standard of living. And it's amazing how much fun work can be when you know that you don't have to — that you are there because of the excitement of the job

**continued on page 6**



## Planning for retirement, continued

or the opportunities for growth that work provides.”

To help individuals plan how much money is needed for financial independence, Decker developed the M-E-R-I-T Perspective:

**Mortality.** What is my, and my spouse's, life expectancy after retirement?

**Expenditures.** How much income will I need after I retire?

**Rate of Return.** What rate of return do I need on my investment portfolio to guarantee that my income will beat inflation for the rest of my life?

**Inflation.** How do I plan so that inflation can help me?

**Taxes.** Which is the best tax alternative for my plan?

After figuring the amount you need to invest to be able to retire (taking into account your company pension), the next step is to set a goal of the age at which you want to be financially independent. Then determine how much you will need to save and invest over the years to get there.

To figure this, you must consider such variables as rate of inflation, rate of compensation growth and rate of return on investments.

*I put money in the Thrift Plan, IRAs and savings bonds.*



Marie Vavasaur  
Senior Clerk  
Port Allen

“For most people ... if they did not have a pension plan, if they did not have a savings plan or a 401(k), they would have to put aside 30 to 50 percent of their compensation to be able to accumulate enough money to be financially independent.” But thanks to GSU benefits such as the Pension Plan and the Thrift Plan, Decker says employees who start saving early may need to save only 7 to 15 percent of their compensation for retirement.

This is where the Thrift Plan helps, Sealy says. The Thrift Plan matches 50 cents for each dollar saved by employees up to 6 percent of their base pay. So an employee who contributes 6 percent of his annual base pay into the Thrift Plan winds up saving 9 percent for retirement or other long-term financial needs.

“People say they can't afford the Thrift Plan,” Sealy says. “The truth is, they can't afford *not* to be in the Thrift Plan.”

Says Decker, “I think most employees must know there is almost no way they can save and invest enough money on their own, in our tax structure, to achieve an objective of financial independence. You have to be able to do it through the company.”

To help employees prepare for a financially secure retirement, Gulf States funds the Pension Plan, Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), and contributes significantly, with employee participation, to the Thrift Plan. “The Thrift Plan also offers special tax advantages not always available to employees as individual investors,” Sealy adds.

## Financially, how are you preparing for retirement?

*By working and participating in various savings plans.*



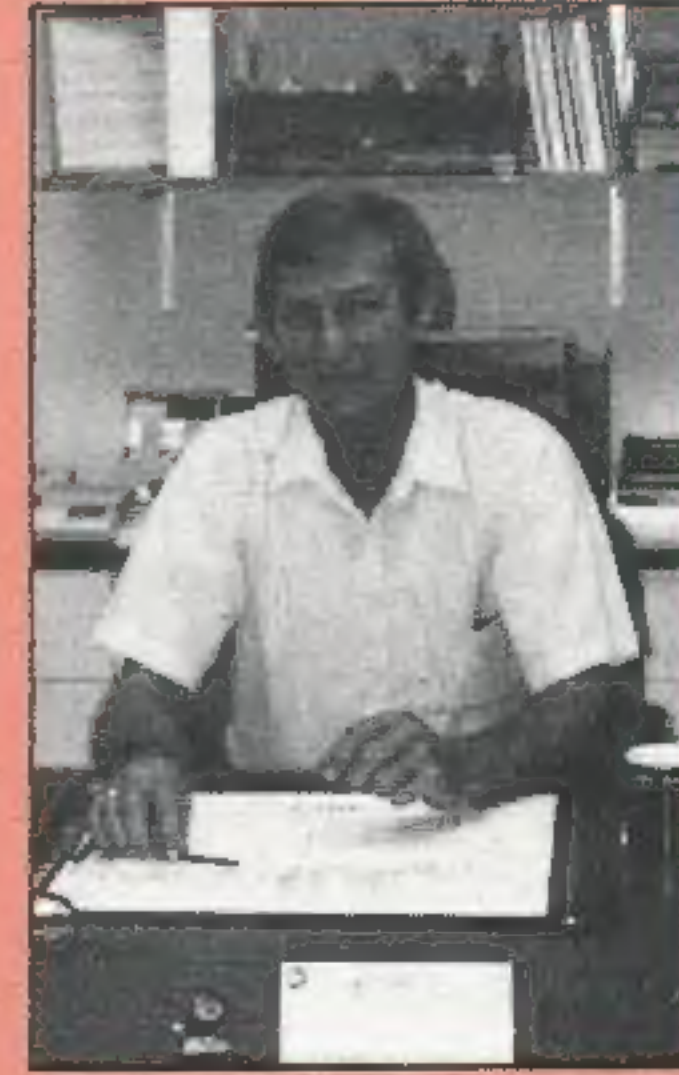
William E. Moore  
Electrician/Test Foreman  
Neches Station

*I buy savings bonds and participate in the Thrift and ESOP Plans. In the future I hope to invest in IRAs and annuities.*



Sallie Willis  
Accountant  
River Bend

*My wife and I started preparing for retirement early. We have invested in the company Thrift Plan, CDs, savings bonds and an IRA.*



*We've talked to a local estate planning consultant and are anticipating a comfortable retirement.*

Alan Levine  
Safety and Health Representative  
Nelson Coal



# How two employees prepared for their future

Two GSU retirees interviewed for this article say they are quite happy with retirement, thank you.

Dan Goodman of Conroe retired July 1, 1986. At the time, he was Western Division general line supervisor. After working for the company for 42 years, Goodman was ready. In retirement, he says, "You can do the things you want to do when you want to do them. When we decide to go someplace, we go."

To prepare for retirement, Goodman "participated in the Thrift Plan 100 percent," he says. He also took advantage of other employee benefits such as the Employee Stock Ownership Plan and invested in Individual Retirement Accounts outside of company plans.

Staying with the company so long also helped. "If I wouldn't have stayed, I would not have such a good plan now," he says.

And his advice to employees? "Hang in there 'til retirement."

Bob Wiggins of Beaumont was senior systems operator in Beaumont until he retired in August 1985.

How does he like retirement? "It's unbelievable. I wish I could have taken it 10 years sooner!" he says. It was hard to get used to at first. "It was a funny feeling when I realized I didn't *have* to do anything."

Although other people have suggested that Wiggins use his repair skills and open a small business, he says 'no way.' "When I quit, I said, 'that's it.' I'm satisfied just the way I am."

In preparing for retirement, Wiggins made use of employee benefits "to the fullest extent. Everytime they'd give something, I said 'I'll take it.' " This included maximum participation in the Thrift Plan and the employee stock ownership plans. Outside the company, he put the maximum amount he could in IRAs and ran a trophy shop part time.

Any suggestions to future retirees? "I'd suggest they take as much on the Thrift Plan as they can. I know it's rough starting out, but put in as much as you can afford."



Bob Wiggins

*I haven't thought a great deal about retiring, however, I've been in the Thrift Plan since the early '60s and I'm confident that the value of company stock will rebound by the time I retire. We're in other savings plans and my wife will have her retirement from teaching.*



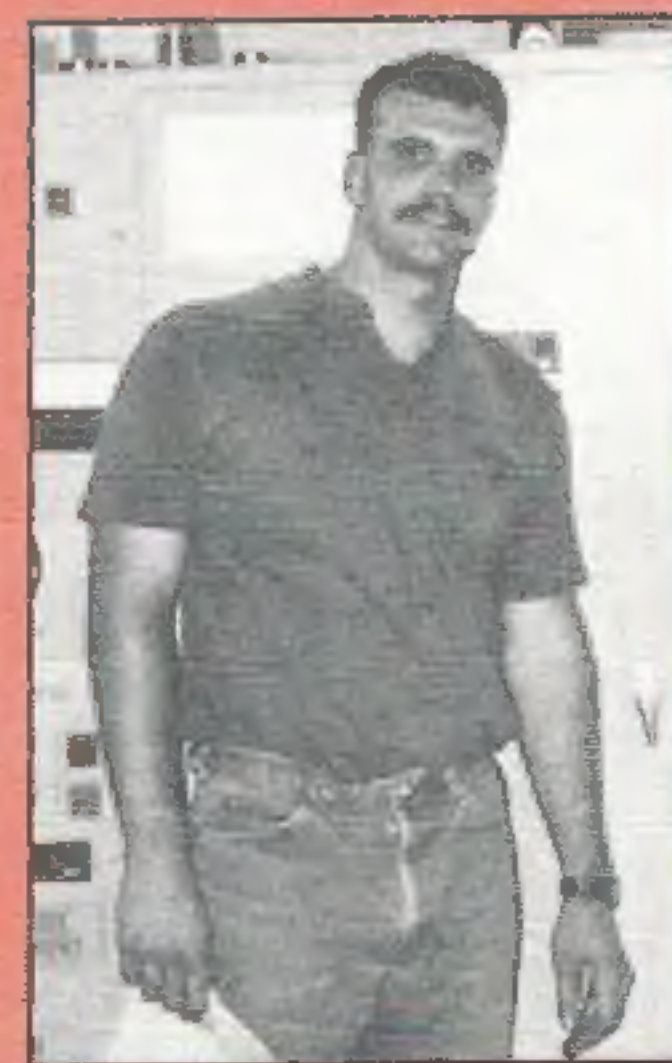
**Derrick Smith**  
General Maintenance  
Supervisor, Nelson Coal

*I am going to rely primarily on the existing retirement plan and supplement that with whatever I can accumulate in the Thrift Plan.*



**Paul Donald Gascon**  
District Supervisor  
Port Allen

*Being young with small children, retirement seems so far away. The company Thrift Plan and safe investments such as a mutual fund are all I can afford at the time. But I never give up hope of that rich relative ... somewhere!*



**Mark Duncan**  
Electrician-1st Class  
Nelson Coal



## New loan provision

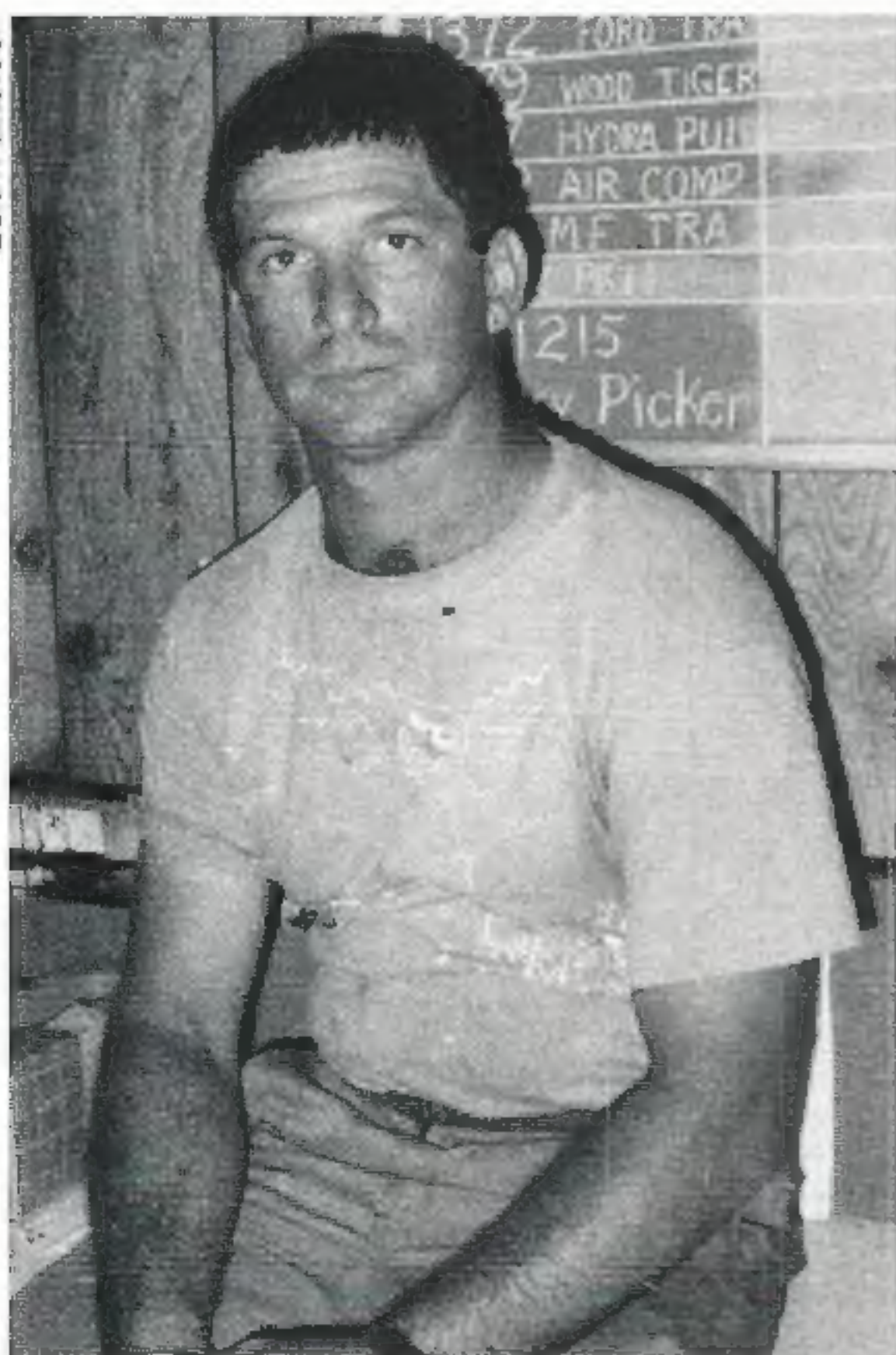
# Thrift Plan puts your money to work

Clint Moss



*"I think it's a pretty good plan. I don't see, since they came out with the loan provision, how we can go wrong."* **Tim Hall**, lineman-1st class, Winnie.

Edith Patterson



*"Instead of the bank making money, I'll be making money."* **Randy Mouton**, lineman-1st class, Lake Charles.

Edith Patterson



*"One of the objections to belonging to 401 (k) is that it's too difficult to get your money out when you need it. So, being able to borrow against that money is probably good."* **Jo Ann Burnett**, inspector-tree trimming, Lake Charles.

by Mike Rodgers

The employees pictured are talking about the Thrift Plan and the new loan provision which allows them to borrow from their own account. They also appear in a videotape explaining the Thrift Plan, which was shown around the system in July and is available for checkout from the corporate library.

With this new loan opportunity, you can use the money in your Thrift Plan account while you work for GSU. "It's like a bank loan," says Mike Sealy, manager of employee benefits, "but with a significant difference. The interest you pay on the loan goes right back into your Thrift Plan account." That way, you not only replenish the savings you borrow, but your savings grow by the interest you pay yourself on the loan. Also, loans are not subject to the heavy tax penalties and hardship regulations that apply to some withdrawals.

To be eligible for a loan, employees must have a current market value of at least \$2,000 in the Plan. Participants can borrow once a year and have only one outstanding loan at a time.

Sealy says, "You can borrow up to 50 percent of the market value of your account. The minimum you can borrow is \$1,000, while the



# k for you

maximum is \$50,000 less your largest outstanding principal balance at any time in the previous 12 months."

Loans are repaid through irrevocable monthly payroll deductions over a period selected by the employee from six months to five years. To ease the financial burden, the loan deduction cannot total more than 15 percent of the employee's regular monthly salary. Employees can elect to pay off the entire loan at any time.

The loan provisions cover many topics such as order of withdrawal, delinquency, leave of absence, retirement, death, termination and default. Copies of loan provisions with all the details are available from Employee Benefits or Payroll.

To apply for a loan, contact the Payroll Department (733-4320 or 409-838-6631, Ext. 4320) for an application by the 25th of the month and return the completed form to Payroll by the last working day of the month. If everything is in order, the money will be ready for you by the middle of the next month.

Payroll will issue loan applications between the 1st and 25th of the month only. Walk-in applicants can pick up applications in Payroll (EP-13) between the hours of 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

E. Kelly Merritt



*"You have to be smart enough to do what's important at the time you're able to plan for the future."* Deborah Redmon, senior engineering assistant, Beaumont.

## What is the Thrift Plan?

The Thrift Plan is a long-term savings plan that helps individuals prepare for retirement or other financial needs. For each dollar you save — up to 6 percent of your base pay — GSU adds 50 cents.

Employees can enroll in either Regular Thrift or 401(k). In Regular Thrift, contributions are made to the Plan after federal income taxes are withheld. That is, contributions come from your after-tax dollars. On the other hand, 401(k) contributions are deposited before federal income taxes are withheld, so less federal taxes are withheld from your paycheck. Employees can also deposit an additional 2 to 10 percent of their base pay to Regular Thrift or 401(k).

Besides the immediate 50 percent company match, the Plan can earn interest. Employees have the option of investing their Thrift Plan deposits in full shares of GSU common stock, a guaranteed fixed income fund, or a savings account.

"Once employees seriously look at the Thrift Plan's 50 percent match on their contributions, they will find it a benefit too good to pass up," says benefits manager Mike Sealy.

Employees are eligible to participate in the Plan after one year of continuous service with GSU. Check *Your Employee Handbook* or with Employee Benefits for more details.



by E. Kelly Merritt

"We're not going to sit ... and take these punches anymore," the officer told his squadron at the June 17 briefing. "... This marketing plan gives us the opportunity to get ready for the economic boom coming our way."

Jim Moss, vice president of marketing, was referring to the new aggressive stance Gulf States is taking to beat the competition, including plans for capturing a greater share of the power market.

Moss was rallying his troops, the marketing representatives and supervisors from headquarters and each division, in a command briefing at the Port Arthur Division auditorium. It was the second of four briefings to be held this year in which the residential and commercial marketing troops discuss their hits and misses under their aggressive *Top Gun* theme.

The 1988 *Top Gun* sales theme, based on the popular film, is a package approach to get Gulf Staters excited about achieving their sales and marketing goals. And according to Jo Ann Smith, manager of commercial and residential marketing, the squadrons (divisions) are reaching their goals at breakneck speed.

"To get back into the mainstream, we had to have a package approach instead of just a market-

ing plan," Smith says. "I can see that it's working, that it's not just all fanfare, when I look at the sales results."

With June squadron reports in, additional revenue goals are already over 60 percent. That achievement looks even better when you consider that autumn is traditionally the best time for equipment and lighting sales.

The quarterly briefing included success stories from each division and a welcome by Port Arthur

Division vice president Ron McKenzie.

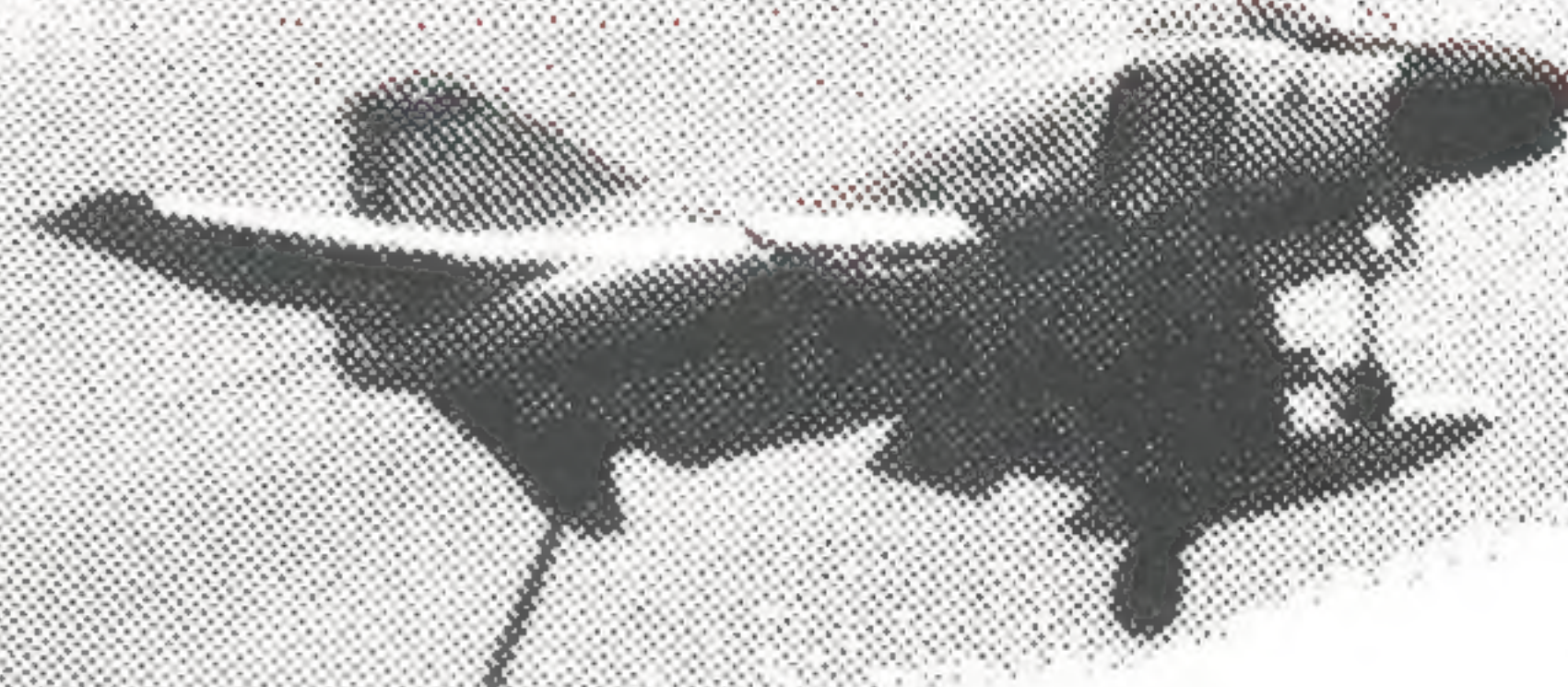
"Marketing has to be the absolute forefront for Gulf States," McKenzie said. "However you approach it, you've got to be successful."

But many marketing reps were quick to point out that the most successful approaches include help from non-marketing employees.

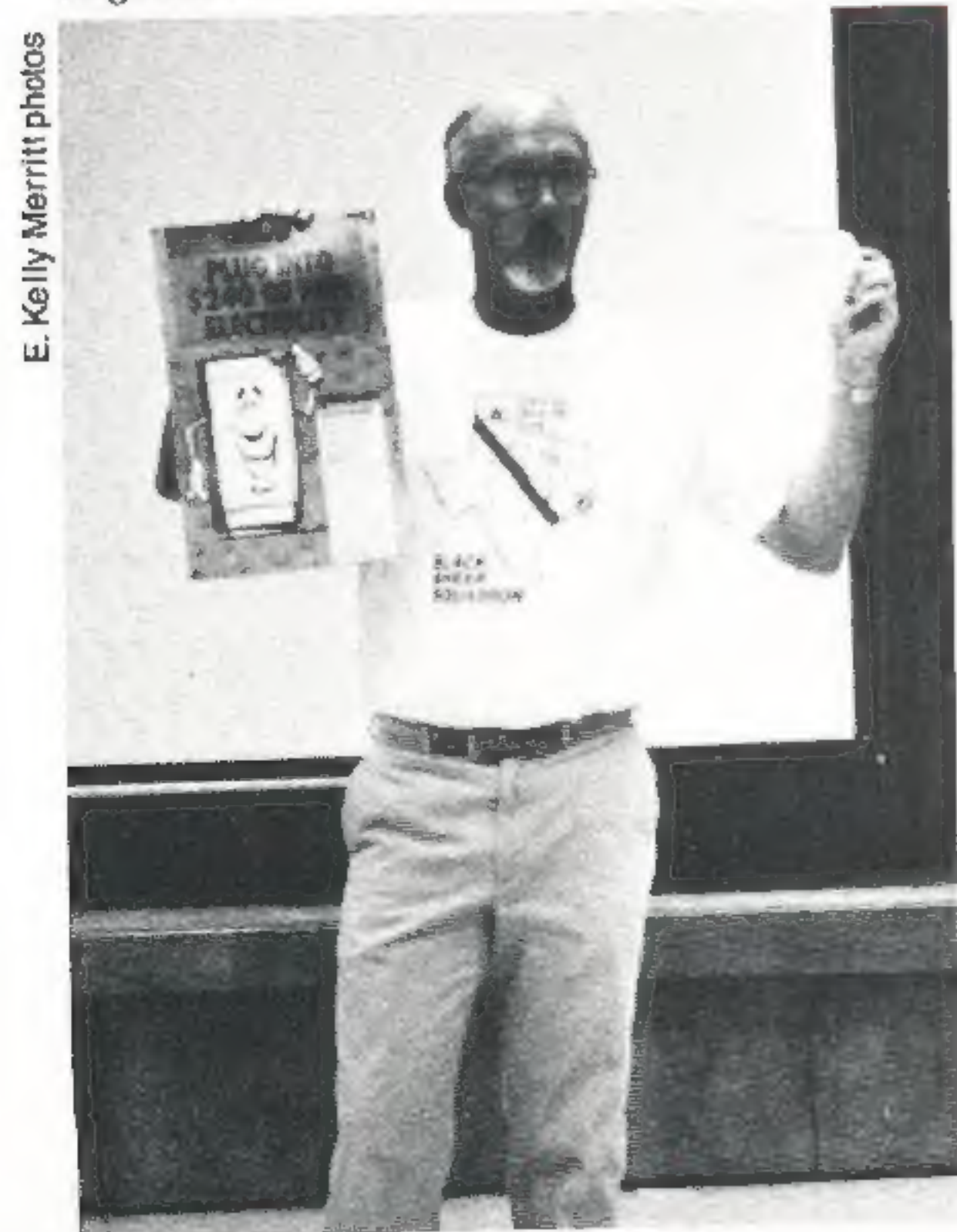
In Orange, for example, marketing agent Kelley Carson and energy auditor Johnny Trahan sat the dis-

# TOP GUN

## THEME TAKES SALES TO NEW HEIGHTS



Beaumont marketing agent Dewitt Hollingsworth.



Western Division marketing team: Front, Paul Mosley, Mickey Walker and Carol Payne. Back; Rocky Haney, Rick Hatcher, John Browning, Dennis Van Hees and Phil Jones.



E. Kelly Merritt photos





strict meter readers down with a box of doughnuts and enlisted their help in designating homes on their routes which use gas-powered air-conditioning. Meter readers found 43 such homes. Carson and Trahan then went door to door and asked the owners if they would consider switching to electric air conditioning. Of the 33 contacts made, four have switched. Most of the others said they would when their gas units expire.

Says Trahan, "We couldn't have had success without the help of meter readers and customer accounting people. We got a lot of cooperation."

Adds Carson, who supplied the doughnuts, "I'll tell you what, that's the best box of doughnuts anybody ever bought!"

Others at the briefing also spoke of new approaches to marketing.

"Marketing folks will have to be innovative," said Rufus Mier, Port Arthur marketing superintendent. "We've got to come up with new ideas on how to beat the competition. As long as it's financially viable, anything is open."

*Top Gun* efforts by the residential and commercial marketers are one aspect of the Marketing Department's comprehensive plan. Moss, code-named "Airboss" for the year, updated the troops on other marketing activities.

One of the most visible units of

Marketing is its economic development support team. "Our people search the country for businesses looking for a new location, then work with local GSU and community leadership to lure them here. These are difficult negotiations," Moss added. "We have to sell our local communities in competition with other parts of the country."

For local governments, Gulf States developed the Team Cities program, an arrangement where communities and GSU work together to promote economic development.

"Industrial account managers Randy Helmick in Louisiana and Ken Sandberg in Texas have a major effort underway to increase our sales to large industrial customers. This requires that we work in partnership with each industry to thoughtfully plan their energy needs. Industrial sales are beginning to grow," Moss added.

On the wholesale front, Marketing has established Jim Richardson as wholesale account manager. Richardson's team works to increase sales to cities and Rural Electric Cooperatives.

These steps, said Moss, combined with the efforts of the *Top Gun* squadrons, will help prepare Gulf States for the next phase of battle. "Our economy is really going to take off. We need to be there to sell as much as we can."

Front: Mike Morgan, system; Victor Emmon, Port Arthur; Dewitt Hollingsworth, Beaumont. Back: Carol Payne, Western; Darrell Goodwin, Lake Charles and Marlene Brandt, Baton Rouge.



Kelley Carson and Johnny Trahan with gas air-conditioner.







## Dayton, Daisetta "Go for the 0"

The winners of Beaumont Division's "Go for the 0" safety contest were the employees of the Daisetta and Dayton offices. The two offices make up the division's Western District. Arden Loughmiller, division vice president, presented a plaque to the group for having the lowest lost-time accident rate in the division.

Pictured from left are Chuck

Oaks, Loughmiller, Richard Votaw, Ed Barton, Gary Noack, Gary Rich, David Douglass, Dorothy Hobbs, Norman McCauley, Dennis Placker, Mary Davis, Carolyn LaChapelle, David Curtis (in dark cap), Sharon Lee, Cynthia Goodson, Greg Williams (white cap), Dallas Boullion, Lynda Kapalski, Albert Duffel, Bill Fox, Dan Syphrett and R.L. Grubbs.

Not pictured are Leonard Shipman, Van Graham, Dempsey Wiggins, Denise Lee, Dean Whitley, Jackie Aucoin and Sue Houska.

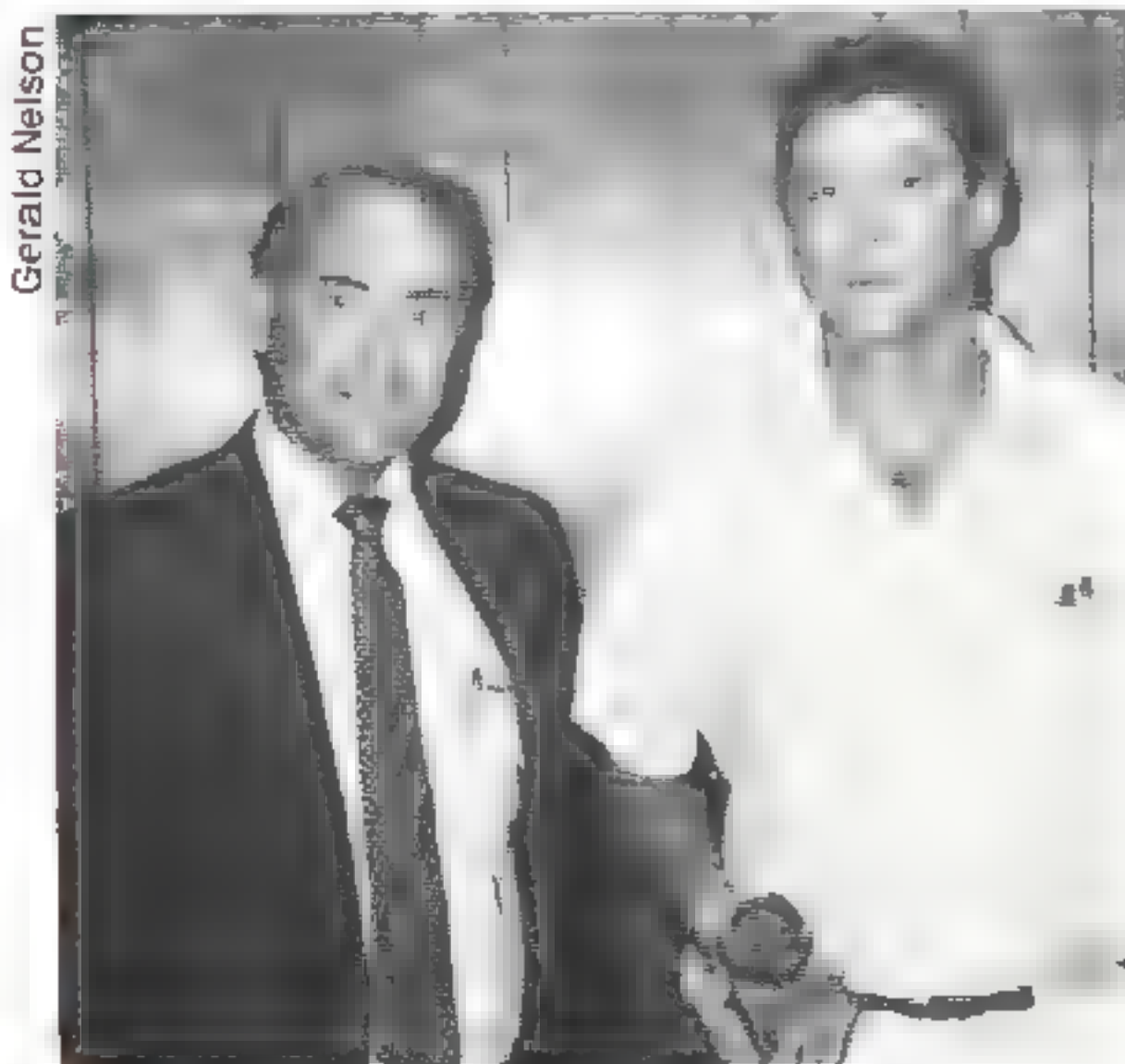
## Patten saves choking son, receives President's Award

On the evening of Oct. 19, 1987, Mark Patten and his wife were at home watching television. Then

their three-year-old stopped breathing, held his throat and turned red. The child was choking on a dime. Applying the Heimlich maneuver, Patten quickly dislodged the coin and saved his son's life.

For his quick action, Patten, control operations foreman, received the President's Lifesaving Award from GSU Chairman and President Linn Draper during ceremonies at Sabine Station on June 9.

"Mark, we are grateful for your actions and proud to have you on our GSU team," Dr. Draper said in presenting the award.



Dr. Draper and Mark Patten

## Family safety show

Port Arthur employees Sue Simon and Wayne Barnett showed Ma Bell a thing or two when they represented Gulf States at a Southwestern Bell Family Safety Show in Port Arthur. Simon, an energy auditor, demonstrated how electricity is generated and Barnett, a safety representative, showed the hazards of electricity.



Sue Simon and Wayne Barnett



## Viguet, Sport both win \$50 savings bonds

Mark Viguet, communications representative-Beaumont, wrapped himself in thought when he heard about the safety slogan contest in March. In May, he wrapped himself again, this time with a safety banner bearing his slogan.

Viguet and Gail Sport, secretary-Port Arthur, each received a \$50 savings bond for submitting the winning slogan in the 1988 Safety Slogan Contest. Viguet and Sport sent in similar variations of the slogan, **A planned job is a safe job.**

Eva Eaglin



Gail Sport

The slogan captures what Occupational Health and Safety manager Mike Durham is trying to impress upon everyone — careful job planning is an important key to preventing accidents and injuries.

E. Kelly Merritt



Mark Viguet

## GSU helps senior citizens stay cool in the heat

"Keeping Your Cool in the Heat," was the theme of the senior citizens' fashion show at Central Mall, Port Arthur, coordinated by Brenda Broussard, senior consumer service representative-Port Arthur and Barbara Ford, marketing director of Central Mall.

Senior citizens modeled lightweight clothing from mall stores as part of First Tuesday events, hon-

oring seniors. Correspondent Barbara Broussard says Gulf States participates in First Tuesday quarterly.

After the fashion show, company representatives answered questions at the display table, which contained literature on GSU services and energy management ... and cool summer recipes.

### *Farque did it*

"I did it," was the winning slogan suggested by Rickie Farque, repairman-1st class-Nelson Gas & Oil, for their blood drive with Lake Charles Memorial Hospital, reports correspondent Connie Herford. Farque received a \$50 savings bond from Faye Robison of the hospital and Roxana Broussard, Nelson equipment operator, for the slogan ... and employees donating blood received a scrub shirt with "I did it" stamped on the front.

Barbara Broussard



Brenda Broussard, third from left, at Central Mall



Connie Herford

Robison, Farque and Broussard



E. Kelly Merritt



Connie Calfee watches children fan smoke from Safety Town demonstration.

## Danger flashes through Safety Town

The children could hear the crackle from an electric arc as a television antenna fell across the power line. Then, with a boom, a yellow flame flashed through the windows and smoke billowed from the small wooden house. The electrical current had found a shortcut to the ground with dramatic results.

"Do it again," a tiny voice piped.

"I'm sorry, we can only do it one time," replied Connie Calfee, Western Division customer information coordinator. She was replying to the group of kindergarten through fourth graders who had just witnessed an electrical safety demonstration at Safety Town in The Woodlands.

Calfee and Gulf States' favorite insect, Louie the Lightning Bug, appeared at Safety Town to show kids just how helpful, and how dangerous, electricity can be. With a scaled-down model complete with a home, car, construction equipment and energized power lines, Calfee demonstrated what happens when grounded objects contact power lines.

The portable model has helped

demonstrate electrical safety for years around the Gulf States system. It includes actual working powerlines run on 110-volt current. Calfee energized the lines with a handheld switch.

The model fit right into the miniature town setting sponsored by The Woodlands' YWCA and the Conroe Independent School District. Five organizations, including GSU, sent representatives to teach the children home, outdoor, fire, railroad, bus and electrical safety.

"Safety Town is a multimedia approach to teaching all aspects of safety," says Kathy Doran, South Montgomery County YWCA director. "It's a hands-on, scaled-down village."

Gerald Nelson



## Gulf Staters enjoy SPARC

Looking for a good time? Join the Sabine Port-Arthur Recreation Club (SPARC). Nearly 300 Gulf States employees and retirees enjoy use of the club at Sabine Station in Bridge City.

The fishing's great and it's a lovely spot for family picnics and reunions, reports correspondent Barbara Broussard. Members can also play baseball, basketball and launch their boats at the boat ramp.

A one-time initiation fee of \$50 per employee can be waived by working four days at the recreation grounds. Dues, at \$6 per quarter, are payable through payroll deduction. Retired GSUs pay a one-time \$25 membership fee.

Volunteers are always needed for scheduled workdays. The baseball field and the boat ramp are usable, but need improvements. Food and drinks are provided for volunteers on the scheduled workdays.

Retiree Sonny Hebert and his wife, Ruth, are the property caretakers.

SPARC is one of several employee recreation clubs around the system.

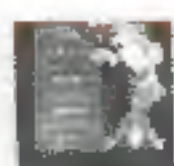
For more information or to join, call board member Ricky Ernst, president, 738-2227, or Karen McConnell, membership chairman, 733-5741.



# MAILBOX



Wilma Shaw



Paul Lane

## Took to heart

Kell Jones, president of the Texas Association of Structural Movers, writes to thank Beaumont section head **Paul Lane** for speaking to the group at its convention recently. "...Each member will remember you and what you said," Jones writes.

## Prompt and courteous

Mary Adelaide McIntyre of Carencro, La., writes to thank Lafayette line supervisor **Bill Thomassee** for his prompt and courteous response when she called about tree limbs threatening the power lines to her house. Thomassee checked out the problem and had it corrected the next day.

## True professionals

Superintendent of Vermilion Parish Schools **Eston Hebert** writes to thank **George Irvin**, general superintendent-Lafayette, for inviting the school board on a tour of River Bend. "The tour was most interesting, informative, educational and was conducted by true professionals," he writes.

Also writing to thank Irvin for the tour is Abbeville City Judge **Roger Sellers**. "I want to thank you personally and all of the other representatives and employees of Gulf States Utilities Company for a very excellent program. All of the comments of those in attendance were very favorable," Sellers writes.

## Help the people

Due to his position, **Dan Reader**, service officer of the Porter, Texas, Veterans of Foreign Wars, says he has daily contact with the needy of Montgomery County. He also works closely with utilities on behalf of those needy people. "Recently I had cause to contact **Mr. Charles Jones** at your office in New Caney about an individual who had no electric service. He owed a small past due bill and had no money for a deposit. I want to personally thank you and your company for having such a nice man as Mr. Jones in a position where he can work and help the people in our community," Reader writes.

Jones is New Caney superintendent.

Edith Patterson



Tina Northcutt

## Satisfied faces

When Lake Charles departmental clerk **Tina Northcutt** and customer contact clerk **Marie Prejean** gave leftover hotdogs and chili to Abraham's Tent after the March of Dimes Walk-a-thon, the donation did not go unnoticed. The food helped to provide a substantial meal to the poor in Lake Charles. "It would do your heart good to see the satisfied faces of those who eat here," writes Sister **Mary John Lachowsky**, director of the charity.

## Thanks for listening

"Thank you so much, Miss Kendall, for being so nice and kind, listening to my problems and for being so helpful," writes a Beaumont customer to **Sue Kendall**, Beaumont consumer affairs coordinator. Kendall helped arrange for a social service organization to pay for the customer's electric bill.

## Eager Hands

**James Johnson** manager-materials management, received the letter below from the Orange County Association of Retarded Children for sponsoring a picnic for the kids.

## Edison Symposium

Jane Davidson, Ph.D., chairman of the Greater Houston Chapter-Electrical Women's Round Table, writes to thank **Charles DeCuir**, supervisor of Customer Services, Western, for the help given by **Connie Calfee**, consumer information coordinator, during the group's meeting at the Edison International Foundation Symposium. "Members gained in many ways from the very informative and stimulating presentations during the session," Davidson writes.

## Eager Hands



ORANGE COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR  
RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.  
804 W. PARK AVE. - P. O. BOX 1001 - 77610  
ORANGE, TEXAS 77630

THANK YOU FOR OUR  
PICNIC WE LOVE YOU!

Deany Martin  
Michael Maravone Roger Scrimmon  
PAG Mary Kay Jan Brown J. Fisher  
Carol Fathie Melody Jones Joseph Song  
Ann JAMES DO Carolyn S. Brown  
J. Trumble  
DAVID SUSAN L. James  
Gray Shirley Medley Boyd  
Matthew P. P. Charles Jones  
WAYNE JUDY LISA Ruth Pousson  
BOBBY SWINBURN  
Charles G. Ben Karen  
Shirley Ann Walker  
Cathryn Boyd  
J. Smith  
JESSIE  
JOEL DOUGLAS  
Kenny Cress  
m. r. t. h. love Henry H. Rogers  
Mike J. J. Andrew Connor  
Ruth Hunt



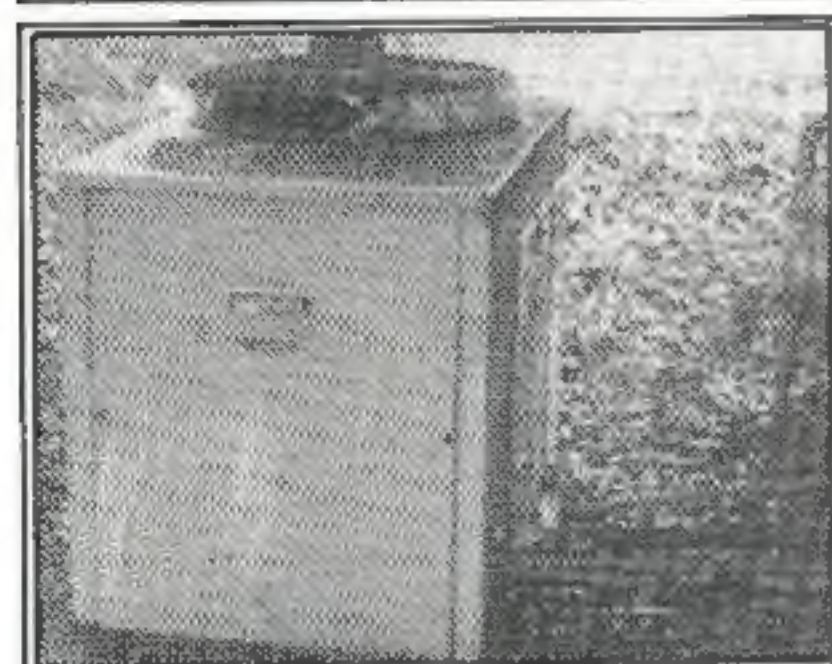
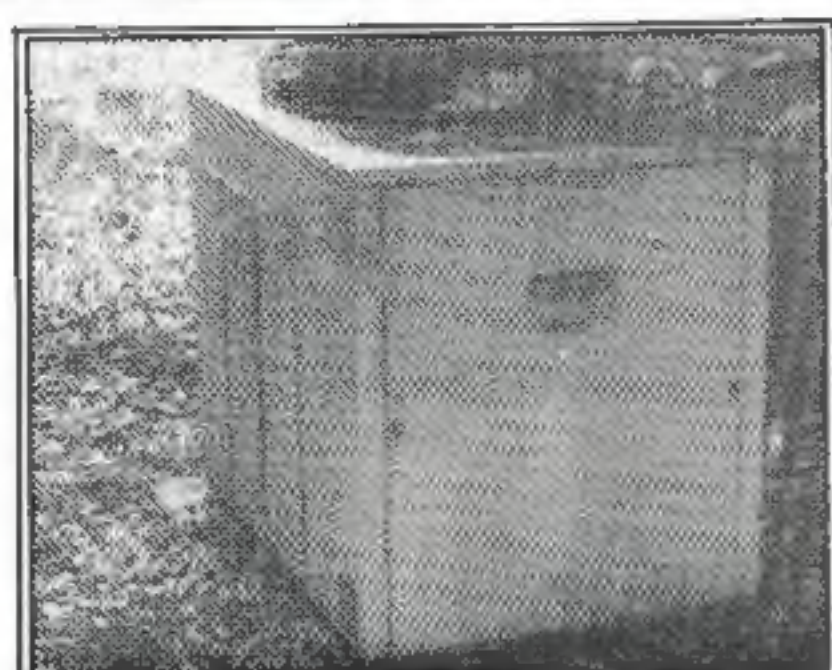
# PLAIN TALKS

P. O. Box 2951  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

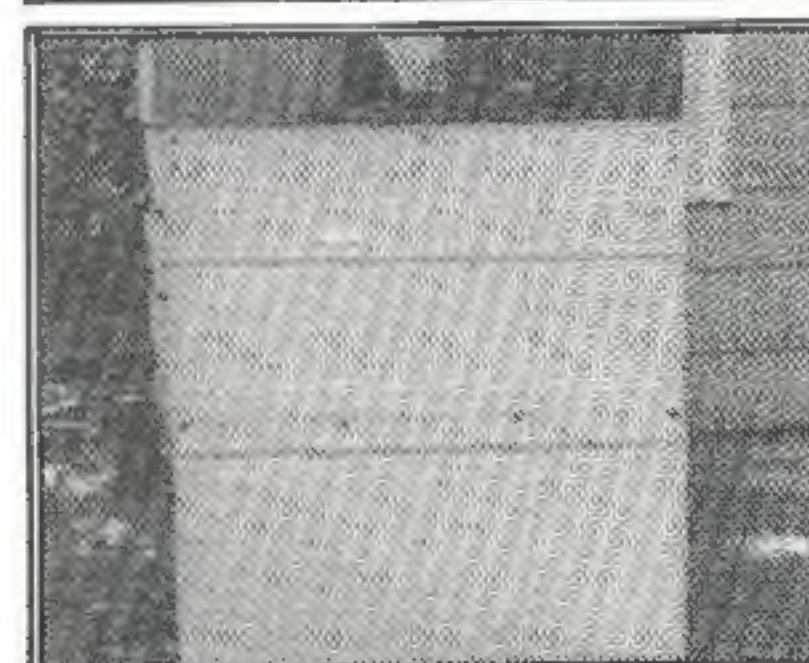
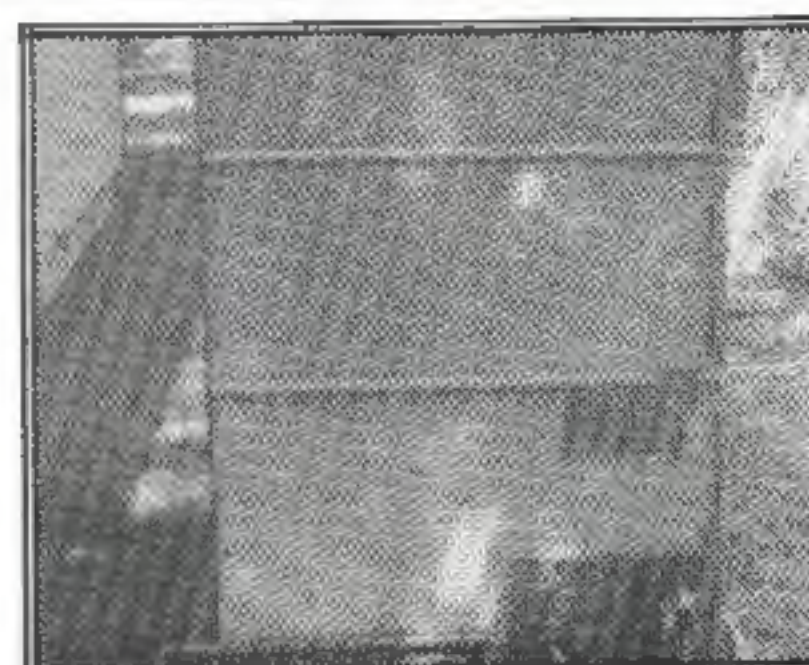
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Beaumont, Texas  
Permit No. 11

## WANTED



**ARKLA SERVEL**



**BRYANT**

Be on the lookout for: Gas air conditioning equipment,  
a. k. a. Arkla Servel and Bryant

### Their crimes:

- Inefficiency
- Wasting energy
- Poor work habits — leaky, lazy pilot light

### Can be identified by:

- Sickly green color
- Gaseous, noxious odors
- Four lines attached to home
- Attachment to gas meter
- Big and ugly

### Last seen:

- Hanging out in older neighborhoods

### Known acquaintances:

- Frequently in the company of gas air conditioning repairmen

### Best defense:

- Replace with a new energy-efficient Heat Pump

If seen, report location to  
Gas Buster Dispatch, 733-4829.

